(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and when such a fund is likely to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) As a part of proposed amendments to the Emigration Act 1983, a proposal is under consideration for creation of a welfare fund for Emigrants to be funded mainly from Emigration Fees. The welfare fund, when created, may provide for legal assistance to emigrants in their disputes in local courts etc.

Provision already exists for repatriating stranded Indian workers against their security deposits to Protectors of Emigrants in India. Indian Missions also have powers to repatriate a destitute Indian as a part of consuler function after getting undertakings from them that they would refund the amount spent on them on reaching India. Likewise Indian Mission can also put an Indian national in touch with a lawyer but they do not have the authority to bear the lawyer's fees etc.

Restart of Textile mills in Indore and Ratlam

1661. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at any stage, the workers of M/s. Shri Sajjam Mills at Ratlam and M/s. Hope Textiles Ltd., Indore, approached the Union Government with proposals that the managements of these closed units be handed over to the cooperatives of the workers;

(b) if so, what was Central Governments' response thereto; and

(c) what other alternatives are being considered by the Central Government to restart these textile mills with a view to safeguard the interests of the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) A Nodal Agency has been set up under the June 1985 Textile Policy to ascertain whether sick textile mills are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages for mills that are potentially viable. Mills found by it to be non-viable may have to close down permanently. The workers of those mills which close down permanently on or after 6 June, 1985 will be eligible for financial assistance under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme. The Nodal Agency has come to the conclusion that Shri Sajjan Mills, Ltd., Ratlam and Hope Textile Ltd., Indore are non-viable.

Scarcity of rayon

1662. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the scarcity of rayon in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ease the scarcity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The availability of viscose staple fibre and viscose filament yarn through indigenous protection is supplemented by imports under OGL. The Government has issued letters of intent for fresh capacity and is keeping a constant watch.

Identification of bonded labour by voluntary Organisations in MP

1663. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any voluntary organisations of Madhya Pradesh had taken up the work of identification of bonded labour and made requests for their rehabilitation to the Central Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, what action the Central Government has taken in the matter: